

REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1-27 are the claims currently pending in the Application.

Applicant appreciates that the Examiner has reviewed the references submitted in the Information Disclosure filed with the application on November 19, 2003.

Claims 1-3, 7, 10, 11, and 18-23 are amended, claims 24-27 are cancelled, and claims 28 and 29 are added herein. Claim 1 is amended to more clearly recite the invention; support for this amendment is on page 3, lines 12-13 and page 4, line 7. Claim 2 is amended to more clearly recite the invention; support for this amendment is on page 13, beginning on line 24, to page 14, line 2. Claims 10 and 11 are amended to more clearly recite the invention; support for the amendment is in the specification on page 27, lines 9-10. Claims 3, 7 and 18-23 have been amended to more clearly recite the invention. Support for new claims 28 and 29 is found in original claims 24-27. No impermissible new matter has been added.

Specification

In the specification, page 14, line 20 is amended to be "a voice synthesis or voice production processing function" to more clearly define the invention. Support for this amendment can be found on page 5, line 5, page 20, line 15, and page 24, lines 17-18 which show that "voice production processing" includes a voice synthesis function.

Also, the paragraphs beginning on page 3, line 7, on page 17, line 11, on page 18, line 6, on page 27, line 23, on page 34, line 20 and on page 37, line 17, have each been amended to make minor editorial corrections.

Drawings

A replacement Figure 2, a replacement Figure 4A and a replacement Figure 5 are submitted herewith; each has been amended to make minor corrections.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 1 is amended to recite that a document information manipulation unit enables the structured document information to be referred to from the application program, as

disclosed on page 3, lines 12-13 and page 4, line 7. Claims 2 and 7 are amended to more clearly define the invention. The specification has been amended to state “a voice synthesis or voice production processing function”, as is described on page 5, line 5, page 20, line 15, and page 24, lines 17-18 which show that “voice production processing” includes a voice synthesis function; this more distinctly defines the invention with respect to claims 6 and 10. Since claims 12 and 15 do not contain the phrase “voice production processing”, the rejection is moot and no amendment to these claims was made. Claim 11 is amended to add the phrase “attributes not existent in a current markup language” to more clearly recite the invention; support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 27, lines 9-10. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is earnestly requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-27 Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter; claims 1-17 are drawn to non-functional descriptive material. Claim 1, as amended herein, recites that “when an event relating to the display document takes place, said event informing unit informs the application program of event information indicating a type of the event and a part of the display document where the event takes place”, thus drawing the claim to the functional material of informing the application program that an event and a display document take place. In *AT&T Corp. v. Excel Communications, Inc.*, 172 F.3d 1352, 1357 (Fed. Cir. 1999), the Court stated that “the *Alappat* inquiry simply requires an examination of the contested claims to see if the claimed subject matter as a whole ... [represents] a mathematical concept [that] has been reduced to some practical application rendering it useful.” Applicant’s independent claim 1, as amended herein, recites the practical application of “inform[ing] the application program of event information”, and this event information indicates a type of event and a part of the display document where the event takes place. Thus claim 1 contains a functional relationship imparted by this event information data to an application program. Claims 2-17 depend from claim 1, incorporating all the features and limitations contained therein.

Similarly, claims 18-23 have been amended to delete the phrase “has a function of” to more clearly define the invention. These amended claims recite the practical application of a an

application program instructing a browser component to manipulate document data, rendering the browser component useful. Claims 24-27 have been cancelled.

Therefore, applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-27.

Rejection of Claims 1-27 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being as anticipated by Shigemi, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,314,434. Shigemi et al. discloses a structured data management system comprised of three main elements: an input/output interface, a storage unit, and a processing unit (column 4, lines 20-24). Shigemi et al. further discloses receiving a message from the input/output interface, and retrieving from the data storage unit the data requested in the message. The retrieval involves executing a process script which, if necessary, traces the tree structure to identify an alternative node if the requested node is not available (column 4, lines 41-60). The scripts offer database access functions and linkage with other systems (column 10, lines 29-30).

By contrast, the present invention relates to a function extension technique for browsers which gives browsers the capability of using information services which require extension of markup languages or meta-information. Applicant's invention enables use of a browser to access a large variety of web pages, including those which make use of non-standard or extended functions. Discrete portions of data or instructions are manipulated and temporarily stored. The present invention converts document data, not script messages, into structured document information but this information is stored only temporarily. Accordingly, the present invention does not include a data storage unit. Further, unlike Shigemi et al., the invention includes an event information informing unit which informs the application program of event information including a type and location, in the displayed document, of an event.

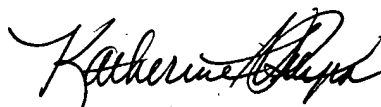
Moreover, for at least the following reasons, the claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious from the cited reference. By way of example, independent claims 1, 18-23 and 28-29 require a document parser unit for converting document data into structured document information, and an event information informing unit for informing the application program of event information. Therefore, Shigemi et al. does not disclose or suggest the recitations of independent claims 1, 18-23 and 28-29. Further, claims 2-17 depend from independent claim 1,

and thus incorporate novel and nonobvious features thereof. Accordingly, claims 2-17 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Therefore, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the Application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine R. Vieyra", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katherine R. Vieyra
Registration No. 47,155

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

KRV/kd